



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**Testimony by the Connecticut Department of Higher Education  
Before the Public Health Committee  
10:00 a.m. – LOB Room 1D  
March 16, 2009**

**HB 5630 (Committee) An Act Concerning the Establishment of Licensure for an Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner**

The Committee should be aware that currently there is only one licensed program in the state. The current enrollment is as follows – 9 part time and one full time student. Since the program has just been accredited (December 2008), there are no graduates as of this time. The Committee should be aware that when the University of Bridgeport submitted this program for licensure, the stated purpose for the advanced degree was to train students to be able to teach. There would be a significant financial impact to the Department of Public Health for a new licensure when the original stated purpose was to train people to teach in the field.

**HB 6674 (Raised) An Act Concerning Workforce Development and Improved Access to Health Care Services**

The Committee will be pleased to know that Section 1 of this bill is current practice under the Health and Education Initiative Grant Program. All parties in Section 1 have been convening on their own for the last two years. It was a very successful collaboration between the Department of Higher Education, the Department of Public Health, and the Office of Workforce Competitiveness. All of the institutions mentioned, the Connecticut State University System, University of Connecticut, Connecticut Community-Technical Colleges, and the University of Connecticut Health Center were in fact grant recipients of this initiative. We would note that this program has not been funded in the next biennium.

**HB 6678 (Raised) An Act Concerning Revisions to Department of Public Health Licensing Statutes**

Section 17 requires the Department of Higher Education to seek certification from the Department of Public Health before authorizing an education institution for licensure in the health care fields. The Department of Higher Education strongly opposes this language. The Department of Higher Education works successfully and collaboratively with all partner agencies in the state to ensure that academic programs offered by our public and independent colleges and universities are of the highest and most responsible level. The Department has worked

cooperatively and successfully with the Department of Public Health on a range of issues for many years and we look forward to such cooperation on all appropriate fronts. However, we believe that the proposed change of language could have negative consequences on the responsiveness of our colleges and universities to emerging and evolving fields of study.

Regarding Section 19, we would ask that all schools opening mortuary science should conform to the current statutory definitions.

We understand some new licensure issues have come before you this session, but we believe we can iron out any problems or misunderstandings that may have occurred. We stand ready to discuss these issues at your convenience.